

NITE-TIMES NEWS

CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 1987

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Nite-Times News is the newsletter of the Chicago Area Timex Users Group. It is available as a Public Domain feature of the North Shore Sinclair BBS. If you are not a CATUG member and desire to have a hard-copy mailed to your home, please provide \$6.00 per year to cover the cost of postage. The Chicago Area Timex Users Group is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Timex and Sinclair supporting users groups. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit an article, leave feedback to Sysop Gary at the North Shore Sinclair BBS or write to:

The Chicago Area Timex Users Group
Nite-Times News Editor
1885A Yorktown Avenue
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088.

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Articles that appear in this issue are:

The Software Exchange
On The QL
December CATUG Meeting
The CATUG Text Library
Telecommuter's Corner
Nite-Times Classifieds
Timex Computerfest Update
Timex Tidbits
Timex/Sinclair BBS Directory

THE SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

This is a new monthly feature where you the Timexer may now programming ideas about on an open forum. You don't have to be a programming whiz, just a Timexer with an idea. Once

it's posted, the other readers with a little more know-how and experience can respond. I've found that Timexers have a pretty tight community, and when one expresses a need for help, many others rise to his assistance.

* * * * *

The following is a response from Al Feng to Gary Lessenberry's inquiry of developing a utility which would allow a quad density disc drive to format, write to, and read from double density diskettes via the JLD SAFE DISC BASIC:

I have been thinking about your technical problem, which you mentioned regarding formatting, reading and writing double density disks from quad density drives. Since I'm not that familiar with Safe Disc Basic, or whatever the JLD disk system uses, I cannot be sure that what I say makes any sense, or is even close to being on the mark.

From what I know about such types of reads (i.e., limited knowledge of what MS-DOS, and PC-DOS do), it isn't worth the effort of writing a utility. With an IBM/clone, a quad density (i.e., 720k) can already read a dual density (360k) disk if they were both formatted via DOS and are, of course, the same disk size. That should hold true for Safe Disc Basic. So, that should take care of the problem of reading a 360K disk.

The matter of formatting and writing is much more severe. And, based on what is not available for the IBM family, I would say that it is either an "impossible" software to hardware request, or that it has been deemed to be either not worth the effort.

Considering the fact that all disk formats are already so inexpensive when compared with five years ago, it would certainly be more economical (in time, if nothing else) to use a simple BACKUP utility which will copy one disk's data to another via a hardware to hardware connection when hooked up to the same computer. In QDOS (for the QL), you would simply enter:

```
COPY "device-A" _datafilename TO "device-B" _datafilename  
(continued on page 2)
```

THE SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

(continued from page 1)

I've copied microdrive data to floppy disk, and vice versa. So, if you have both disk drive types in hand, then it should be a simple enough matter to simply hook up one type as DRIVE A and the other as DRIVE B. It should not matter, then if they are different densities, or sizes.

ON THE QL

By Butch Weinberg

Well another month and I will try to be of some help to those of you who read this. In last months column there were two misprints. The first is that the reverse slash is the top right key, not the top left key. The second correction concerns getting the QL to accept both lower and upper case as the same value. To do this, you must use a double equal sign as follows:

"IF q\$=="y" "

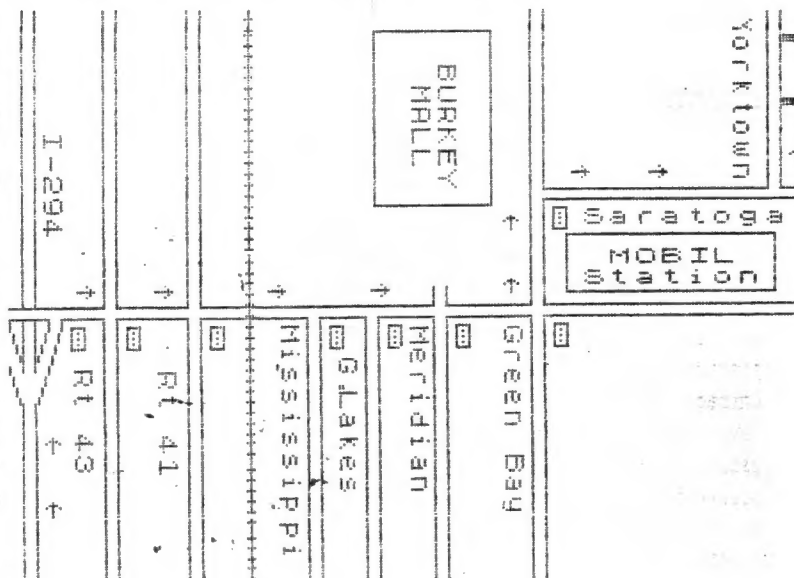
This month I am going to review MAILMERGE. I have used this software twice. It's documentation is sparse. However, it is a QUILL doc file. The only shortcoming I found was in the documentation. It doesn't inform you that you can't use imbedded printer codes in a document that is being used with MAILMERGE. Hopefully, a CATUG membership letter will be mailed out with this month's newsletter that will serve as a good example of the end product of MAILMERGE.

I am going to try to tell you about one of the programs in our QL Public Domain Library each month. To start this off, I'll explain one of the ones I wrote (I know them best!). This month's program is called CHECK. It's my program for writing checks on a printer with bi-directional tractor feed. It only requires one sheet of paper for as many checks as you want. The instructions are as follows: by pressing a key, the printer will print a check form (for alignment purposes only). After taping a check in place (for best results, use architects tape), press any key and the paper will be brought back to the original spot and the computer will ask you for the information for the check. After the memo line, it will print everything on the screen in the positions they will be in on your check and ask you if everything is correct. If you enter "y", it will print the check. If you enter "n", it will ask you which data you want to change. After the check is printed, it will be moved up for changing and you will be asked if you want another. Change checks before responding if your answer is "yes". I originally wrote this program for the TS-2068 and I still have it available for anybody interested in it.

DECEMBER C.A.T.U.G. MEETING

The December meeting of the Chicago Area Timex -Users Group will be at 12:00 on Saturday, the 5th, at the residence of Gary Lessenberry, 1885A Yorktown Ave, Great Lakes, Illinois.

DIRECTIONS: Drive north on I-295 (Tri-State Tollway). Exit at Rt 137 Buckley Road. This exit follows the Rockfield Road exit and the Lake Forrest Oasis. Drive east on Buckley thru five traffic signals and turn left at the sixth signal (Rt 131 Greenbay Road). Drive one block north to the first traffic light (Saratoga Ave) and turn right. Drive one block east and turn left on to Yorktown. 1885A is the second driveway on the right. For more help call (312) 473-9415.



C.A.T.U.G. TEXT LIBRARY

By Gary Lessenberry

I am happy to report to our active Timexers that we are exchanging the Nite-Times News with other Timex-Sinclair Users Groups for their newsletters. Below are the newsletters that we are currently exchanging with other groups. I will have the most current issues of each one available at our monthly CATUG meetings. Remember that all of the publications in our Text Library are available for check-out by CATUG members.

DETROIT AREA T/S NEWS

C/O BARRY CARTER, BOX 614, WARREN, MI 48090

T/SUG OF FORT WORTH

4424 GEDDES AVE., FORT WORTH, TX 76107

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TIMEX/SINCLAIR BBS DIRECTORY

(NOVEMBER 1987)

C.A.T.U.G. TEXT LIBRARY

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BULLETIN BOARD	NUMBER	NOTES	RATES
VSYS TIMEX/SINCLAIR BBS	(201) 527-0535	7 M @ %	16/15
T.S.U.G.	(201) 956-7703	8 L D @	15/14
TIME--(X)--CHANGE BBS	(213) 329-3922	8 H D @	17/15
STARTEXT.	(214) 877-1041	8 M \$	16/15
FWKUG MBBS.	(214) 540-4183	8 D @	16/15
TIMELINES BBS	(216) 671-6922	8 H D %	15/14
CLEVELAND FREE-NET BBS. . . .	(216) 368-3888	7 L @	15/14
KINGS MARKET BBS.	(303) 665-6091	8 M D @	16/15
NORTH SHORE SINCLAIR BBS. . . .	(312) 473-9415	8 L D % @	-----
PEOPLE-LINK	(312) 822-9712	8 L D \$	-----
COMPUSERVE.	(312) 443-1250	7 H D \$	-----
SERIAL PORT BBS	(313) 286-0145	8 H D	15/13
TIME-HEX BBS.	(317) 362-8085	8 M %	15/13
ISTUG BBS	(317) 898-3903	7 H	15/13
BILL'S OBSESSION BBS.	(404) 377-2550	8 H D @	16/15
TIMEXNET BBS.	(408) 248-8017	7 L @	16/14
PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE EXCHANGE	(415) 571-6911	8 M D @	16/14
DOWNLOADERS ANONYMOUS	(416) 844-2035	8 M D	22/18
R.M.G. BBS.	(503) 656-8072	8 H @ %	17/15
JJ'S FIDO	(505) 522-7081	8 L D	17/15
WEGO FREE ACADEMY BBS. . . .	(607) 754-3420	8 L D	16/15
THE TOXIC DUMP BBS.	(609) 890-6347	8 L	16/15
THE TIMEWARP BBS.	(617) 481-0555	8 L D @	16/15
FLEXI BBS	(617) 648-7651	8 L @	16/15
SINC CITY BBS	(617) 986-8449	7 M D @ ?	16/15
MAINSTREET DATA BBS	(619) 439-6624	8 \$	16/15
LOONEY BIN BBS.	(619) 390-9470	7 D	17/15
FLASH! BBS.	(702) 644-6910	8 M D	16/14
TEACHER'S PET BBS	(704) 547-4185	8 L D % ?	16/15
SINCLAIR AT NIGHT BBS	(718) 627-1293	8 H D %	15/14
MICROLINK BBS	(718) 648-3502	8 L D	15/14
LT-BBS**MET-DBS	(805) 942-7301	8 M D	17/15
FUTURE ELECTRONICS BBS. . . .	(813) 531-4342	7 L	17/15
SUNSTATE T/S BBS.	(904) 775-0093	7 M	16/14
THE BUS DEPOT BBS	(904) 262-6761	8 L D	16/15
ALICES RESTAURANT BBS	(914) 477-8017	7 L	16/15

TIMEX BBS DIRECTORY LEGEND

7 PARAMETERS = 7/E/1 8 PARAMETERS = 8/N/1
D TIMEX FILE TRANSFERS L LOW USAGE T/S MSG BASE
M MEDIUM USAGE T/S MSG BASE H HIGH USAGE T/S MSG BASE
\$ SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED % OPERATION DURING EVENINGS
@ ACCESSIBLE VIA PC PURSUIT ? DOWN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
RATES ARE THE CHARGES FROM CHICAGO FOR THE FIRST MINUTE & EACH
FOLLOWING MINUTE AFTER 11:00 PM AND ON WEEKENDS.

ZX-APPEAL

C/O ROD HUMPHREYS, 2006 HIGHVIEW PLACE, PORT MOODY, B.C.,
CANADA V3H 1N5

SINC-LINK

P.O.BOX 7274, STN A, TORONTO, ONT., CANADA M5W-1X9

THE RAMTOP

C/O J.G. DUPUY, 6514 BRADLEY AVE (DOWN), PARMA, OHIO 44129

LIST

P.O.BOX 438, CENTERPORT, NY 11721-0438

I.S.T.U.G. NEWSLETTER

C/O FRANK DAVIS, 513 EAST MAIN STREET, PERU, IN 46970

S.L.U.G.

4122 WALLINGFORD LN., LOUISVILLE, KY 40218-2365

TIMELINEZ

P.O.BOX 1312, PACIFICA, CA 94044

WESTMORELAND COMP. USERS CLUB

P.O.BOX 3051, GREENSBURG, PA 15601

CATS NEWSLETTER

P.O.BOX 725, BLANDENBURG, MD 20710

SINCLAIR MILWAUKEE USERS GROUP

P.O.BOX 104, BUTLER, WI 53007

SINCUS

1229 RHODES ROAD, JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790

MILE HIGH TIMEX SINCLAIR U.G.

C/O FRANK HOLLAND, 1423 SOUTH PEARL, DENVER, CO 80210

DALLAS TSAUG

C/O ARTHUR J. EMERSON, JR., 5216 COVENTRY COURT, COLLEYVILLE,
TEXAS 76034

TIMEX SINCLAIR USERS GROUP

2345 MOORPARK WAY, HENDERSON, NV 89014

QZX JOURNAL

2025 O'DONNELL DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, N.M. 88001

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORNER

By Gary Lessenberry

During the past month I've set-up a part time BBS to support the efforts of Chicago Area Timexers. It's The North Shore Sinclair BBS. It operates from 10:00PM until 6:00AM nightly using my regular home phone line at (312) 473-9415. It operates Casboard BBS software from a TS-2068 with the JLD Disc System. The logon parameters are: word length = 8, parity = none, and stop bits = 1. There is a file transfer area which include our online text files as well as public domain programs. I plan to keep this as a part time system throughout the Christmas holidays. If usage is good, I may install a dedicated phone line for it after the first of the year.

During the month of November, the Nite Owl Special BBS experienced a fatal hardware crash. As a result of the crash, the CPU along with the modem and disk drives were all destroyed. Rich Pranitis, the Nite Owl Sysop, has determined a get well date for his BBS yet. However, he has ensured me that it will eventually be brought back online.

Have you ever been cut-off during a file transfer by CALL WAITING (or CALL ANNOYING as some call it)? If so, you may want to try the following procedure to disable CALL WAITING before placing a modem call:

1. Listen for a dial tone.
2. If you have a touch tone phone dial *70. If your phone is rotary or pulse, dial 1170.
3. Listen for another dial tone.
4. Dial your target phone number.

CALL WAITING will remain disabled until the completion of your call and then automatically be reinitiated.

NITE-TIMES CLASSIFIEDS

The Nite-Times Classified Ads are a service provided to all of our readers. Please submit your ads prior to the 15th of each month. They may be mailed to the Nite-Times News or sent to Sysop Gary via the feedback message base at the North Shore Sinclair BBS (312) 473-9415

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FOR SALE

AFFORDABLE HI-RES PLOTTING for the TS-2068 and Commodore 1520 four-color printer/plotter! The plotter can be found at Toys-R-Us stores for \$29.95. Interface hardware (from bareboard to assembled & tested) as well as utility software for screen to plotter graphic transfer, banner making, and word processing are available from: John McMichael

1710 Palmer Drive
Laramie, WY 82070

A large SASE gets you more info and a sample plot.

* * * * *

WANTED

I am looking for any old, working, top-case and keyboard assembly for a QL. I am willing to pay \$25.00 or trade my copy of QL FLIGHT and a game program (either BLAST BUGGY or CAVERNS) for it. If you have converted to a SCHON keyboard and have the old assembly laying around please contact me.

Al Feng
15 Wake Robin Ct.
Woodridge, Illinois 60517

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FOR SALE

TS-1500 Computer with manual for \$45.00

Contact: Gary Lessenberry
1885A Yorktown Ave
Great Lakes, IL 60088
312/473-9415

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WANTED

I am looking for a new or used Memotech CPI for my TS-1000. If anybody has one that they would like to sell, please write to:

Rod Humphreys
2006 Highway Place
Port Moody, B.C., V3H 1N5
Canada

* * * * *

FOR SALE

TS-2068 computer, Aerco centronics printer interface, and Olivette jet-ink printer.

Contact: Alden Hutchison
114 Windsor Park Drive, B-305
Carol Stream, IL 60188
(312) 690-6752

TIMEX SINCLAIR COMPUTER FESTS

The Silicon Valley Timex Sinclair Computer Fest has been cancelled. At this time, the only Timex/Sinclair Computerfest scheduled for 1988 is the Sunstate Timex Sinclair Winterfest.

As many as 35-40 dealers are expected to be present at the Winterfest, including one or two electronic surplus dealers. Cost of tables for dealers will be \$50.00 pre-registered and \$65.00 at the door per table. The Swap section will be upgraded from the Midwest Fest. The following vendors have tentitively requested room at the Winterfest:

Variety Sales	Curry Computer	Quantum Computing
AFR Software	Safe Disk Up-date	Markel Enterprises
AERCO	Grey and Clifford	Footte Software

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TIMEX SINCLAIR COMPUTER FESTS

(continued from page 4)

The Orlando Marriot Hotel, a luxury hotel between Orlando, Disney World, and Sea World, has been chosen as the Winterfest headquarters. The hotel is offering our group a convention rate of \$90.00 per night, single or double occupancy. There are lots of dealers who have already signed up for the fest and they have plans of special prices during the fest. The latest information is as follows:

SUNSTATE TIMEX SINCLAIR WINTERFEST

Date: 7-9 March 1988

Place: Orlando Marriott, 8001 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

Rates: \$5.00 per person, ans \$9.00 per family

POC: Mary-Lynn Johnson, 249 N. Harden Avenue, Orange City, Florida 32763

BBS: Sunstate BBS (904) 775-0093 (7/1/E)

TIMEX TIDBITS

The CATUG has received a shipment of QL catalogs from Quantum Computing (8 Billen Street, Box 1280, Dover Mine Hill, New Jersey 07801). These will be distributed at the next CATUG meeting. Of particular interest is the \$88.00 price when the L's are purchased in quantities of three or more.

According to Time Designs Magazine, Fred Nachbaur of Silicon Mountain Computers (C-12, Mtn. Stn. Group Box, Nelson, B.C. Canada V1L 5P1) has developed and is marketing an interpreter ROM for the PC8300 (TS-1000 clone) for \$14.95! It will the user to load 99% of the available TS-1000 software. The only thing that it won't load is the newest high-resolution software.

Grey & Clifford Computer Products (P.O.Box 2186, Inglewood, CA 90305) have announced the development of the TMX-64 BBS software. This BBS program is fully compatible with the Z-SIO (for use use with 300/1200 baud modems) as well as the TS-2050 modem. It features multiple message bases, 64 column sysop screen, abbreviated menus, and adjustable user display. For the price of \$30.00, this program may be a must for the person that seriously wants to operate his own BBS.

According to the October issue of The LISTing (newsletter of the Long Island Sinclair Timex Users Group) reports that the long awaited Futura (a QL clone) will not be marketed as a new computer, but rather an upgrade card for the IBM PC!

The LISTing also reports that Mark Smith, who designs products for Quantum Computing, has designed a 68020 board for the QL. He claims that his board (which he has a working prototype of) increases the QL's speed by several hundred percent and actually makes the QL operate faster than a Macintosh! Mark also claims that this board will allow memory

expansion of up to four gigabytes! No retail price has been announced yet, but you can bet that the price will be in the \$400.00 - \$600.00 range.

According to The Detroit Area Timex Sinclair News, S.D. Lemke is putting out a newsletter for the TS-2068 entitled. "Pixel Print Press". For more information, write to: Lemke Software Development, 2144 White Oak, Witchita, KS 67207.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS TIMEX USERS

BLAYNE ARNESON, (312) 422-0030 TS-1500

PAUL BEATTY, (312) 764-8378 ZX-81, TS-2068 & JLD FDD, TS-2050

MARK BIERY, (312) 946-6892 TS-2068, TS-2050

JAMES BREZINA, (312) 832-1782 ZX-81, TS-2068 & ZFDD

BILL BROOKS, (312) 832-9272 TS-2068, QL & modem

JERRY COHLER, (312) 878-4606 TS-2068

STEVE COOPER, (312) 968-3553 TS-2068, TS-2050

JOHN L. DONALDSON, (312) 232-6147 ZX-81, TS-2068, QL

BILL DONETS, (312) 657-8168 TS-1000, TS-2068

MARK DORINSON, (815) 469-3403 WORK TS-2068, TS-2050

KEN DUDA, Unlisted ZX-81, TS-2068 & JLD FDD & AJ MICRO, TS-2050

RICHARD EKSTROM, (312) 445-7787 ZX-81

ALPHONSO FENG, (312) 971-0495 QL & QL-FDD

JOHN FRANGELLA, (815) 886-5279 TS-2068, TS-2050

PAT FRANGELLA, (815) 886-5279 TS-2068 & AJ MICRO, TS-2050

GLORIA GEDONIUS, (312) 871-6579 TS-1000, Byte-Back Modem

JIM HENDERSON, (309) 691-3332

MELVIN HOYT, (309) 762-6426

CHARLES P. JACKSON, (618) 465-6941

MARION KAMINSKI, (312) 286-2975 TS-2068

JAMES KERR, (312) 841-5034 TS-2068 & WAFADRIVE, TS-2050

WILLIAM J. KLEIN, (312) 587-5665 TS-2068, TS-2050

OTTO KRAUS, Unlisted Phone

JOSEPH M. KUC, (312) 823-7809 TS-1000, TS-2068

DAVE LEDOWITZ, (312) 798-4365 TS-2068 & WAFADRIVE, TS-2050, QL

GARY L. LESSENBERRY, (312) 473-9415 TS-1500, TS-2068 & JLD FDD, TS-2050

JEFF LESSENBERRY, (312) 852-1675 TS-2068, TS-2050

LEOPOLD MAJEWSKI, Unlisted Phone TS-2068, QL

MIKE POTTER, (815) 758-4503 TS-1000, TS-2068 & SPECTRUM MICRO, Zebra-FDD, TS-2050, QL

LAWRENCE P. SAUTER, (312) 763-5383 TS-1000, TS-2068 & JLD FDD, TS-2050

EDWIN L. SCHODEN, (312) 852-9372 TS-2068 & FD-68 & LARKIN FDD, QL, TS-2050

AL SHERMAN, (312) 671-2720 TS-1000, TS-2068, TS-2050

ROY SPEAR, (312) 382-3974 TS-1000, TS-2068 & WAFADRIVE

RONALD SWIAK, (312) 622-1677 TS-1500

LEE THORESEN, (312) 672-9066 TS-1000, TS-2068, TS-2050

JOHN ULREICH, (312) 748-6004 TS-1000, TS-2068, TS-2050

BUTCH WEINBERG, Unlisted Phone TS-2068, QL



CHICAGO AREA TIMEX USERS GROUP
1885-A YORKTOWN AVENUE
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS 60088